

## REMARKS

### Status of the Claims

#### *Pending claims*

Claims 1 to 79 are pending as filed.

#### *Claims canceled and amended*

In the instant preliminary amendment, claims 24 and 33 are canceled, without prejudice. Thus, after entry of the instant amendment, claims 1 to 23, 25 to 32 and 34 to 79 will be pending.

All of the claim changes are cosmetic and none raise any issue of patentability. Accordingly, the amended claims cannot be interpreted as having been altered in any way for any reason related to patentability.

## CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully aver that the all claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

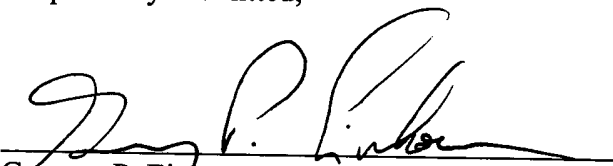
If any additional necessary fee is required, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such a fee from the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 06-1050. Please credit any overpayments to the above-noted Deposit Account.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (858) 678-5070.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

Sept. 25, 2003



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